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model. They are light and fast-going. If by speed—the facilities for annihilating time and space—our navy can prevent the old-fashioned hand-to-hand encounters—can bring a little strategy and skill to take the place of bull-dog fighting, it will be a step forward. But if we can secure treaties to try arbitration in every instance before resorting to war, it will be better still. And if our great Peace Congress of next August at the World's Fair can set in motion a scheme for a world's tribunal to which can be referred all international difficulties which fail of settlement under the treaties, the dawn of a twentieth century millennium will seem to be at hand. Why not? Why all this waste of iron and steel, of the time spent in comparative idleness or in unproductive work of some seven hundred men to a vessel, of the lives sacrificed in such disasters as this of the *Victoria* at Tripoli, and the blood and treasure worse than wasted in time of war? Civilized people do not now settle their individual disputes by the sword or pistol. It is as much behind the age to sustain great armies and huge war vessels with which to settle national quarrels.—*Farm, Field and Fireside.*

ENGULFED IN THE NAME OF VICTORIA.

Dear Union Signal:—The first telegraphic dispatch announcing the foundering of the battleship *Victoria* stated that it was the most serious calamity of the kind, in respect of the loss of life involved, that was known in British annals. This was an error, however, soon corrected. When the *Royal George* went down in the quiet sea, as she was undergoing repairs off the harbor of Portsmouth, there was nearly or quite double the loss of life that occurred in the recent awful catastrophe. The poet Cowper in his elegy upon "The Loss of the *Royal George*" thus mournfully sang:

"It was not in the battle;
No tempest gave the shock;
She sprang no fatal leak,
She ran upon no rock.

"His sword was in his sheath,
His fingers held the pen.
Wheu Kempenfelt went down
With twice four hundred men."

It appears that there was a ball in progress at the time, and, it was said, hundreds of degraded women went down unwarned to a watery grave with the seamen and soldiers. Pity it is to destroy the poetry that may be in a measure associated with the historic event referred to, but we seek the truth and the whole truth, and for the good of our fellows of the living present it may be well to tell it in plain prose.

"On a ship coming into port," said an English naval officer, half a century or more ago, "large numbers of prostitutes are frequently allowed to come and live on board, or come off in the evening, and are sent ashore in the morning." A naval officer of our own said of his ship while in Port Mahon, "I have seen five hundred of these lost, degraded creatures on board at a time, all the decks full of them, between the guns, and in every direction were they to be seen with the seamen."

But, it will be said, it is not at all likely that the naval and the military service of to-day is witness of such shocking demoralization. Nevertheless, to take the case of England's vast dependency of India, we know without a

doubt that the operation of the "cantonment acts" in that country is such as to continuously involve the degradation and ruin of great numbers of Hindu girls, to satisfy the lust of the resident soldiery from Christian England. Engulfed, alas, in the name of *Victoria*, Queen of England and Empress of India! Hundreds of these wretched creatures foundering in the sea of life year by year! The battleship and its four hundred have gone down, and all Britain is shocked and stirred withal with profoundest sympathy. When shall be similarly manifested the tokens of national sorrow because of that greater holocaust of Hindu maidens sacrificed year after year to the God of war?

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BOYS' BRIGADES.

Many thoughtful Christians both in this country and on the other side of the Atlantic, are greatly exercised over the formation of Boys' Brigades in Sabbath schools and in Christian Endeavor associations. The term "brigade" is a military term. The gun is a military weapon for killing men—so is the bayonet. The accoutrements are military, so is the drill.

He must be a poor student of human nature who does not see that this will greatly foster the martial spirit in the boys, and also in the girls who witness these drills and parades. Letitia Barbauld says: "War is in itself so bad a thing that there is only one way of making it worse, and that is by mixing religion with it." The boys know what these guns are made for, and what all this military paraphernalia means. They see soldiers drilled just as they are, and they know that they are being trained so that they may be skillful in the butchery of their fellow men. They see that this is encouraged by ministers of the gospel and by Sabbath school teachers. They are marched into their Sabbath school classes with their guns and in military array. These young minds will almost certainly get the idea that war and the religion of Jesus Christ are in harmony, or that these ministers and teachers are hypocrites. So it seems to us that the organization of these Boys' Brigades is greatly to be deplored. Could not all the good that is claimed for them be obtained without the military accompaniments? We certainly think so.

We hope all ministers of the gospel and religious teachers will be enabled to see the inevitable tendency of these military organizations, and discourage them.

Now, when leading thinkers throughout the civilized world are devising ways and means for the settlement of international and all other disputes without war, it certainly ill becomes religious teachers to foster the military spirit in the young.—*Christian Arbitrator and Messenger of Peace.*

THE SILVER-TRACK DRAMWAY.

A little item which I met with in a newspaper sometime ago set me to work at a geographical exercise, which, as it resulted in a somewhat astonishing showing, may interest others besides myself. The item referred to reads as follows: "Pennsylvania receives an annual income of \$76,000,000 from its mineral wealth, but it